Tests on Bt Cotton by ICAR

†3142. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council for Agricultural Research is conducting tests on utility of Bt cotton hybrids, from the point of view of its production in northern parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) by when the said tests are likely to be completed;

(d) whether Government have taken any decision with regard to yield of Bt cotton in Northern India, till the tests are completed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The trials are being conducted at ten locations, three each in Punjab and Rajasthan and two each in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to understand yield performance, bollworm damage and reduction in use of pesticides.

(c) The first year's trial results are expected by March 2003.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise, Sir.

Apple production

†3143. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of apple producted in major apple growing States in the country, during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the area of apple cultivation in such State is decreasing; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of steps to be taken by Government, to encourage such States for producing apples?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.